

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 297

2 INTRODUCED BY T. BERRY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE TIME FOR APPLYING FOR A HISTORIC
5 RIGHT-OF-WAY ON STATE LANDS; AMENDING SECTION 77-1-130, MCA; AMENDING SECTION 5,
6 CHAPTER 461, LAWS OF 1997, SECTION 6, CHAPTER 270, LAWS OF 2001, AND SECTIONS 2, 3, AND 4,
7 CHAPTER 57, LAWS OF 2005; AND PROVIDING A TERMINATION DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 77-1-130, MCA, is amended to read:
12 **"77-1-130. (Temporary) Recognition of historic right-of-way -- criteria for right-of-way deed --**
13 **conditions -- fees.** (1) A person or a county may apply to the department for a historic right-of-way deed to
14 provide access to the applicant's private property, to provide continuation of a county road, or to provide for
15 authorization of existing utilities by filing an application with the department by October 1, ~~2014~~ 2015 ~~2013~~ 2015,
16 on a form prescribed by the department. An application must be accompanied by:

- 17 (a) an application fee of \$50;
- 18 (b) a notarized affidavit:
- 19 (i) demonstrating that the applicant or the applicant's predecessor in interest used the right-of-way
20 applied for before 1997 and that the use has continued to the present;
- 21 (ii) describing the purpose for which the right-of-way was used before 1997; and
- 22 (iii) demonstrating that the historic right-of-way applied for is the right-of-way demonstrated in the
23 evidence provided in subsection (1)(c); and
- 24 (c) (i) aerial photographs taken by an agency of the United States demonstrating use of the right-of-way
25 applied for; or
- 26 (ii) other evidence of the use of the right-of-way applied for.
- 27 (2) The department shall review an application and other evidence submitted pursuant to subsection (1)
28 and shall issue a historic right-of-way deed in the name of the applicant if:
- 29 (a) the applicant pays the application fee provided in subsection (1)(a) and the fair market value of the
30 historic right-of-way as provided in subsection (4);

1 (b) the applicant has shown by substantial evidence the matters required in subsections (1)(b) and
2 (1)(c)(i) or (1)(c)(ii);

3 (c) the department has, if necessary, made a field inspection of the right-of-way applied for; and

4 (d) the deed is approved by the board.

5 (3) A historic right-of-way deed issued in the name of the applicant must contain the description of the
6 property of the applicant to which it is appurtenant as provided in the application, and the right-of-way must
7 thereafter be considered appurtenant to that dominant estate. A deed may be assigned by the applicant to the
8 applicant's successor in interest with the approval of the department. The department may not withhold approval
9 for any reason other than that the use of the historic right-of-way is contrary to subsection (5).

10 (4) (a) At the time of issuing the historic right-of-way deed, the department shall collect from the applicant
11 the full market value of the acreage of the historic right-of-way.

12 (b) The amount collected pursuant to subsection (4)(a) must be deposited in the appropriate trust fund
13 established for receipt of income from the land over which a historic right-of-way is granted.

14 (5) If application is made in accordance with this section, a historic right-of-way deed must be issued by
15 the department, subject to the approval of the board, on the following terms:

16 (a) the right-of-way is only for the minimum width necessary, as negotiated by the department and the
17 applicant; and

18 (b) the right-of-way is only for the physical condition of the road or utility facilities existing on the date the
19 historic right-of-way deed is issued by the department.

20 (6) Issuance of a historic right-of-way deed pursuant to this section is exempt from the requirements of
21 Title 22, chapter 3, part 4, and Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 and 2.

22 (7) The survey requirements of 77-2-102 may be waived by the department for the issuance of a historic
23 right-of-way deed if the department determines that there is sufficient information available to define the
24 boundaries of the right-of-way for the purposes of recording the easement.

25 (8) The department may attach conditions to a historic right-of-way deed necessary to ensure
26 compliance with this chapter.

27 (9) For the purposes of this section, "historic right-of-way deed" means a document issued by the
28 department granting to the applicant a nonexclusive easement over state land. (Terminates October 1, ~~2016~~ 2020
29 2025 ~~secs. 2, 3, 4, Ch. 57, L. 2005.~~)"

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